

## **MESSAGE FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK 2010**

### **AMBASSADOR OF SINGAPORE TO THE UNITED STATES**

#### **CHAN HENG CHEE**

On behalf of the government and people of Singapore, I am pleased to express our support for the 11<sup>th</sup> annual International Education Week. The theme for this year's event, "*International Education: Striving for a Sustainable Future*", is one that resonates deeply with our country.

Singapore has no natural resources. Our main assets are our strategic location and our people. We have had to invest in our people and in the development of our human resources. Education forms the second largest item in the annual budget, averaging about twenty percent of total government spending.

Our goal is to maximise the potential of every Singaporean by providing the best educational opportunities in order for him or her to achieve success. This commitment has translated into the strong foundations and achievements of our education system today. Nevertheless, we still strive to learn from the experiences of others and further improve our system.

The United States has some of the finest education institutions in the world and is a favoured destination for Singapore students seeking higher education. Educational cooperation between the United States and Singapore has been good and longstanding. The educational institutions in both countries have collaborated on many fronts.

A number of top notch US universities have set up in Singapore, establishing a presence in Asia. This has been to the benefit of students in Singapore as well as the region. Notable examples include the Duke-National University of Singapore Graduate Medical School; MIT's collaboration with the Singapore University of Technology and Design; the Peabody Institute's partnership with the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music; and the NYU Tish School of Arts Asia campus in Singapore.

Schools in Singapore frequently send students to the United States for academic exchanges to get an understanding of another culture. This is part of a programme to give every student at least one overseas experience by the time of their graduation from school. This has been an essential experience to help foster a global outlook for Singaporean students, one of the key skills required in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

I wish the organisers of this year's International Education Week every success for this event.